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Motherhood.

I hold within my arms today,
A priceless bit of mortal clay;
Divinely fashioned, and so fair
The angels well may kinship share.

My soul with gratitude is filled;
My heart with mother love is thrilled;
My eyes brim o'er with newborn joy,
While gazing on my cherub boy.

O precious one! through tears I see
A mighty task awaiting me;
My happy sky grows overcast—
Life's duties loom so grand, so vast.

To shield from wrong, to right incline
This little life now linked to mine.
Divine the gift. Oh, may the mold
A heart of truth and honor hold.

Help me, kind Heaven, to know the way
From out the tangles of each day,
To guide him safe to manhood's prime,
And all the glory shall be thine.

—Good Housekeeping.

Miami Valley Items.

We have been going on in the even tenor of our way, since last heard from. We filled our usual appointments in the Valley.

The exchange between Bro. Cober and myself will take place on the 14th. When this issue reaches our readers it will be "last" Sunday. Through some mistake our editor had it too previous.

On Saturday Aug. 6th, we met with the Lexington Brethren in council meeting. Amongst the business transacted was the appointment of committees to solicit contributions, select location, etc., for a new meeting house. Our readers will remember this was the locality where the meeting house was demolished in a storm, as reported a few weeks ago.

During our regular meetings at Little York, two sisters were baptized on Sunday morning the 7th.

On Monday evening we again preached for the Miamisburg brethren. The interest at this place is still increasing, and the prospects are becoming brighter and brighter.

The subscription list for our new meeting house here has now reached the neighborhood of $2500. A well has been dug. A Cincinnati architect employed to dratt a plan. The plans submitted are very satisfactory, promising that it will be one of the neatest and best arranged meeting houses in the brotherhood.

On last Tuesday and Wednesday, about 40 teams were engaged to haul brick, stone and sand. And building will be commenced just as soon as the bids are received. We expect to dedicate this church before cold weather comes on us.

Before we held meetings in this neighborhood, no other person ever thought of coming here to preach, but now it seems, since the late religious awakening, everyone is anxious to come here and have meetings.

On Sunday afternoon, the 7th, J. P. Martin, late of the Bear Creek congregation, came here with his Zion's Watch Tower theory of the ages. But the people did not want any tangled up theories about the future and the past. They were hungry for the Gospel of a living, present, Savior. Down this way they do not believe in salvation through the acceptation of a very doubtful and mysterious theory. They want the plain teachings of Christ and nothing else. So the large congregation went away disappointed.

On the same Sunday and at the same time, a Baptist preacher was waiting to preach at the same place. But the people considered they had heard enough for one afternoon, so went home.

On last Wednesday evening I received a telegram from Winchester, requesting me to come down to the funeral of old brother Joseph Fahrney of that neighborhood.

Bro. Fahrney has been faithful and a staunch adherent of the gospel alone doctrine. For several years he has been afflicted with deafness. Since he has been unable to attend our meetings through sickness, we have missed his eager anxious, listening face on the front bench.

The last time we saw our dear old brother was during the visit of Bro. J. H. Worst, when we went to his home and enioyed a brief season of worship. We are sorry that our circumstances are such that we could not visit more among the people. Our many appointments, having now seven places which we fill regularly, and having my home in Ashland, deprives me of this.

We hope the brethren and sisters will be merciful in their judgment of me. Many weeks I have only one night at home with our little ones. Each week I have to make the trip from Ashland to Dayton and return to fill my appointments. And I know my friends would be too reasonable to expect me to neglect my little family. I am doing the best I can under the circumstances.

I start for Dayton this (Thursday) evening, and will be at Miamisburg by 6 a. m. Friday, ready to be taken to place of mouring. May God comfort and bless the bereaved.

EDWARD MASON.

Virginia Notes.

At our last business meeting it was decided that all members of the Round Hill congregation who attend the convention shall constitute the delegate or delegation (which ever may be allowed by the convention) from this congregation.

In this way no one who attends the convention can feel slighted by not having had a voice in the representation of our congregation; and too, it gives a combined representation of the ministry and laity.

It is not many weeks until the convention meets, and I have no knowledge of reduced railroad fare. It this cannot be gotten, I fear, the convention may be numerically small.

Our editor suggests that the delegates be instructed whether or not sectional strife and hatred should be encouraged between the German Baptists and the Brethren. This, I think, and have gospel reasons, should have no affirmative answer, no affirmation discussion, and have no delegates to vote affirmatively.

"Baptize Face Forward" is a good tract by the Brethren Tract Society, and should be in the hands of every church member and non-professor.

Bro. J. H. Wisman of St. Luke, is a model deacon. When the minister fails or is late at appointments, Bro. Wisman fills the pulpit himself. Why does not the church authorize him to preach? There never yet has been too many servants of the Lord.

One part of brethren Ditch and Rittgers suggestion, I think, could be improved. At least if they mean that the presiding elder should perform the same office and be maintained financially as in other churches with an office of this kind.

Of what benefit to the cause of Christ to the amount of years and even life time work, and many thousands of dollars expended does this presiding eldership amount to? I have never yet seen the church nor souls, in churches that have presiding elders, benefited but little. Why change the present system of elder official work. The elder heretofore has been pastor as well as elder, and both positions have been filled as well as only one.

We should, I think, have state conferences or conventions annually, excepting when we have a general convention, and have these conventions represented by the ministry and laity jointly. And then have a general or national convention every two, three or four years. This would reduce expenses and yet annually have conventions.

Bro. Garber's "Thorough Organization" is a good plan for church work.

As often as the word "progressive" is said to fit our young sisters for dress display, I have yet to see the first distender or more commonly called "bustles" upon our most "fixy" sisters. This I can not say of some others who profess less progression."

G. A. COPP.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

Aurelia, Iowa.

It has been quite awhile since there has been any thing in the EVANGELIST, from this place. We are still alive, and if any of the Brethren come this way we would be glad to have them stop, especially ministers, as I would be much pleased to hear a brother preach once more. Bro. Riest has quit preaching and it leaves all the labor on myself. We try to tell the Old Story of the Cross every Sunday, except one out of six. We have meeting twice a month in the Lutheran church in Aurelia, and every other Sunday in a school house in the country, at which, we have quite a nice Sunday School. Bro McClain is superintendant and E. L. Devor, assistant. Our congregations are increasing right along, regardless of the warm weather and busy season. We have had no accessions lately but look forward with fond anticipation for an ingathering by and by.

On last Sunday we were much surprised after services, to have Bro. E. L. Devor call us aside and present us with a cash donation from the church. The brethren and sisters will please accept our humble thanks, and may the blessings of the Lord attend you through life. This shows to us our labors are appreciated. On Saturday the 12th, we expect to hold our council meeting, preparatory to the convention.

S. T. GROVE.

Flora, Ind.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:—I have been reading so many good letters in the EVANGELIST, and not reading any from this place, I felt it my duty to write.

We have a nice church here though few in number; yet we know the Lord is with us, for he has said: where two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be also.

Bro. J. A. Ridenour came to our place about eighteen months ago, and organized a church, commencing with only three members. He began preaching such good sermons that we began taking our Bibles from the stands, and took the valuable papers out that had been laid away for safe keeping and commenced reading for ourselves. We now have forty-three members.

Bro. Ridenour preached for us once a month and Bro. B. H. Flora once a month. I have been a member of the Brethren church of Flora one year, and I expect, by the help of God to ever cling close to the cross. Let us put on the whole armor of Faith; let our watchword be onward and upward, true to our God. So when it is ours to die, we can hear those blessed words of our Savior, well done thy good and faithful servant: enter ye into the joy of thy Lord.

MRS. VIC M. BARNARD.

Grace Church, Milford, Ind.

The Annual Harvest Feast of the members of the Grace church, on Thursday was a success in every respect. The day was propitious, it having rained the night previous, which not only lay the dust but brought a cool and invigorating breeze, removed the languor that weeks of intense hot weather had caused the mind to partake of the lassitude that permeated the body. Although the clouds looked fickle, their threatening appearance did not deter the many friends of our church from devoting one day to prayer and thankofferings for the many blessings that for the past year have been strewn in their pathway; and long before the people had gathered together Old Sol made his appearance lending a charm to the scene in the grove and filling the hearts of all with a spirit of thankfulness and reciprocal obligation.

The rostrum was well arranged, as well as the seating of the congregation, and Bro. Ewing of South Bend with a well drilled choir made the place echo with praise and thanksgiving. The Eld. H. R. Holsinger delivered an address filled with the spirit of rejoicing and thankfulness for the success and prosperity of our little church, as well as the church throughout the land.

The hour had now arrived and the call from labor to refreshment was sounded and in a moment the scene was changed in every direction, nimble hands were dotting the earth with snow white cloths while the contents of well-filled baskets and savory dishes filled the atmosphere with a smell that raised our appetites—but the kind attention of our loved ones soon removed our anxiety and on all sides were heard the merry laugh and social repartee.

At the close of this social repast all assembled on the bank of the stream to once more return thanks and sing songs of praise and with the host in heaven rejoice over the repentance of one who was now knocking at the door of Christ's kingdom and who through the assistance of Rev. Ridenour was buried in baptism and placed within the portals of his church.

Returning to the grove the meeting was again opened by Bro. Holsinger with prayer and song service. T. P. Holsinger of California then occupied the rostrum, giving a historical account of the origin of the Harvest Feast with its beneficial effects, as well as the obligation that we as a people were under for the many blessings that are daily thrown around us, man's social and moral feeling which require him to seek the companionship and love of his race and bind him in bonds of gentleness to his kindred and friends, affections which give him idea of right and duty of justice and benevolence. At the close of Mr. H's. remarks, Miss Lottie Holsinger stepped upon the platform and delivered an essay, that while the subject engendered a feeling of sorrow and melancholy in the minds of her hearers and her rhetorical elocution powers held them spellbound, her kind face and gentle manner wove around the hearts of the audience a net-work of love and affection that time can not remove, and at the close all felt like stepping forward and clasping the hand as a token of their love and affection.

The Rev. Ridenour in some very appropriate remarks then brought to a close one of the happiest gatherings that ever assembled in this section and one that will long be remembered.

G. W. HORTON.

Jesting lies bring serious sorrows.

The world deals good-naturedly with good-natured people.

Regard not dreams, for they are but the images of our hopes and fears.

We are sometimes led by our imagination and tripped by experience.